

Patent

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Thomas FICHTNER

Docket: 1999DE508

Serial No.: to be assigned

Filed: March 22, 2002

For: UTILIZATION OF WATER-SOLUBLE ZIRCONIUM COMPOUNDS AS  
DRYING ACCELERATORS IN AQUEOUS COATING AGENTS

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the calculation of the filing fee for the above-identified application,  
please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims

Please amend claims 1-12 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for accelerating the drying of an aqueous coating composition having one or more binders comprising the step of adding one or more water-soluble zirconium compounds to the coating composition, wherein the binders present in the coating composition include polymer dispersions based on one or more homopolymers and/or copolymers.
2. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the overall zirconium compound content, calculated as zirconium oxide and based on the binders present in the coating composition, is up to 50% by weight.

**CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.10**

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Date of Mailing: March 22, 2002

I hereby certify that on the date indicated above, this new U.S. patent application and the papers indicated as enclosed therein, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box PCT DO/EO/US, Washington, D.C. 20231, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.10.

Signature of Person Mailing the Application

Vicki L. Sgro

Typed Name of Person Mailing the Application